

THE MEDICAL NEWS AND LIBRARY.

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MALGAIGNE'S OPERATIVE SURGERY, TWENTY-FOUR PAGES.

MEDICAL PROGRESS.

Medical Society of the State of New York.—This long established and influential society held its annual meeting at Albany on the 5th, 6th, and 7th of February, 1850.

The President, Dr. A. H. Stevens, delivered the annual address, which was exceedingly eloquent and instructive, and the subject of it most appropriate, "The Public Health."

The following written communications were presented:—

1. Semi-annual address before the Albany County Medical Society, on erysipelas; by John Swinburne, M. D., Vice-President.
2. Contributions to the vital statistics of the State of New York; by Lemuel Shattuck, Esq., of Boston.
3. An historical sketch of the state of medicine in the American colonies, from their first settlement to the period of the Revolution; by John B. Beck, M. D.
4. Papers (posthumous) on vital statistics, by Dr. Forry. Communicated by Professor Charles A. Lee, M. D.
5. Medical topography of the county of

Montgomery; by Joseph White, M. D., delegate.

6. Communication on the vital statistics of the city of Brooklyn, during 1849; by Charles S. J. Goodrich, M. D., health officer of Brooklyn.

7. On the communicability of cholera; by Alexander H. Stevens, M. D.

8. On the cholera of 1832, at Newark, New Jersey; by John S. Darcy, M. D., of that place.

9. On the cholera at Rockaway, in 1849; by Julius Auerbach, M. D.

10. On the primary treatment of bruises and sprains; by Alex. H. Stevens, M. D.

11. On the sanitary construction of rural dwellings; by Alex. H. Stevens, M. D.

A report was also received from the standing committee on hygiene and medical statistics, Dr. C. A. Lee, chairman.

Dr. Clark made a verbal communication on typhus fever, maintaining its identity with typhoid fever.

Among the *resolutions* adopted were the following:—

Resolved, That a prize of \$20 be offered for the best essay "on the pernicious influences of nostrums and secret remedies on the health and morals of the community."

Published Monthly by LEA & BLANCHARD, Philadelphia, at One Dollar a-year, and sent GRATUITOUSLY to all subscribers of the *American Journal of the Medical Sciences*, who remit the Annual Subscription, Five Dollars, in advance.

In no case will this work be sent unless the money is paid in advance. This should pay postage as one newspaper.

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Said essay to consist of not less than 16 pages, or more than 20 of the Transactions, to be adapted for popular, rather than professional instruction. The essays to be transmitted to the secretary of the society, before the 1st of January, 1851.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—

President—Dr. Alexander Thompson.
Vice-President—Dr. Jenks S. Sprague.
Secretary—Dr. Thomas Hun.
Treasurer—Dr. P. Van O'Linda.

CENSORS.

Southern District—Drs. James R. Manley, John Cheeseman, Charles S. J. Goodrich.

Middle District—Drs. Augustus Willard, S. H. French, John McCall.

Eastern District—Drs. Joel A. Wing, Thomas W. Blatchford, T. Romeyn Beck.

Western District—Drs. Bryant Burwell, Daniel S. Jones, John Cotes.

Tennessee Medical Society.—This society held its twenty-first annual meeting at Murfreesborough, on the 3d and 4th of April. An interesting address was delivered by the president, Dr. JOHN W. RICHARDSON, and several cases were read by members.

The following resolutions, offered by Dr. Gordon, were adopted:—

Resolved, That the long established custom of writing medical prescriptions in the Latin language should be abolished.

Resolved, That natural philosophy and chemistry have an intimate connection with medicine, throwing much light upon it, and ought, therefore, to be included among the preliminary studies of medical students.

Resolved, That the chief cause of the common complaint of the disrepute and degradation of the medical profession is to be found in the faulty elementary, or office medical education, and that the desired elevation of the standard of the qualifications and exaltation of the profession will never be accomplished until suitable measures shall be adopted to correct this evil.

The society adjourned to meet at Murfreesborough on the first Wednesday in April, 1851.

Medical Society of the State of North Carolina.—This society held its first annual meeting in Raleigh on the 3d and 4th of April last.

Addresses were delivered by the Presi-

dent, Dr. Edmund Strudwick, and by Dr. T. N. Cameron.

Among other resolutions adopted were the following:—

Resolved, That it is important the society should own the Proceedings of the National Medical Association, and that the secretary be requested to purchase said Proceedings from the organization of said body up to this time, and to obtain them for the society annually hereafter; and that they shall be paid for out of the funds of the society.

Resolved, That there should be a standing central committee, to consist of the secretary, the treasurer, and three members annually elected, whose duty it shall be to attend to the interest of the society in any matters referred to them.

Resolved, That it shall be the duty of the several county societies, in connection with this society, to transmit, at least one month before each annual meeting, to the State central committee of this society a report of the meteorology, medical topography, and diseases prevailing in their bounds, and such other matters as they may deem interesting, to be by said committee revised and condensed, and laid before this society at its next meeting, as an annual report; which report shall be the property of the society, and subject to its disposal.

Resolved, That a special committee of seven members be appointed to memorialize the next legislature to pass a general registration law of births, marriages, and deaths in North Carolina.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—

President—Dr. E. Strudwick.

Vice-Presidents—Drs. F. J. Haywood, E. E. Johnson, J. E. Williamson, W. G. Thomas.

Corresponding and Recording Sec'y—Dr. W. H. McKee.

Treasurer—Dr. W. G. Hill.

After an interesting session, the society adjourned to meet in Raleigh the third Wednesday in May, 1851.

Michigan Medical Association.—The second annual meeting of this society was held at Ann Arbor, on the 16th of January last. The Annual address was delivered by Dr. Field.

Dr. Graham made an elaborate report on behalf of the committee on obstetrics. The

report was chiefly devoted to the discussion of etherization in childbirth, the author advocating its use, he having tested its value in between thirty and forty cases.

A committee was appointed to memorialize the legislature of the State relative to the vending of spurious and adulterated drugs.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—

President—Dr. Samuel Denton, of Ann Arbor.

1st Vice-President—Dr. Geo. W. Gorham, of Jackson.

2d Vice-President—Dr. S. R. Arnold, of Monroe.

Secretaries—Drs. DeLaskie Miller, of Flint, and Geo. W. Fish, of Jackson.

Treasurer—Dr. Abram Sager, of Ann Arbor.

After the transaction of other business, the society adjourned to meet on the second Wednesday in October next.

SKETCHES AND ILLUSTRATIONS OF MEDICAL QUACKERY.

Kinesipathy.—A new kind of charlatan-ism, which bids fair to prove a formidable rival to homœopathy, hydropathy, isopathy, &c., has lately been introduced into London, under the name of kinesipathy. The great founder of this system of treatment was a Swede, named Ling, who, for genius and originality, is spoken of by his disciples as having been equalled only by Hahnemann and Preisnitz. He founded a school of gymnastics in Stockholm, which was supported by a grant from the Swedish government, in 1813. This royal institution still exists; and there Augustus Georgii, the introducer of Ling's system into London, was educated. The treatment consists in producing various active and passive movements, which are remarkably well adapted to call different series of muscles into play. In short, the "system" is nothing more nor less than what has long been practiced in various gymnastic institutions, somewhat extended and methodized.—*Month. Journ. Med. Sci.*, March, 1850.

Quackery and Death.—Three deaths have occurred within a very recent period from that most ignorant of all species of quackery, appropriately termed "Coffinism." One occurred at Blackburn, after overdoses of Cayenne pepper, a material used in almost

every disease by the *soi-disant* Dr. "Coffin's" satellites. The two other were the subjects of judicial investigation, inquests having been held in both cases. In the one held in Middlesex, by Mr. Baker, at which Dr. Letheby exposed the pernicious effects of astringent remedies in a case of inflammation of the bowels, the practitioner, a quack herbalist, narrowly escaped a committal for manslaughter; the other case, which has created much public interest at Northampton, was that of a woman who died a week after delivery, and subsequently to an ounce of acetic tincture of *lobelia inflata* having been administered to her by her husband, an agent for the sale of Coffin poisons in that town. Dr. Kerr, Mr. Terry, and Mr. Bryan, all medical practitioners of eminence in Northampton, gave evidence on this occasion, and that of Mr. Bryant, which is reported at length in the local newspapers, contains a very complete account of the post-mortem appearances of the poisoning by *lobelia inflata*. In this case, a verdict of *manslaughter* was followed by a committal to prison of the husband of the deceased woman, on the warrant of the coroner.—*Lancet*, June 22.

MEDICAL NEWS.

DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE.

Assimilated Rank in the Navy.—At the semi-annual meeting of the Erie County Medical Society in the State of New York, held in the city of Buffalo, June 12th, 1850, on motion of Dr. Austin Flint—

Resolved, That this society recommend to the members of the medical profession of this county for their signatures the memorial to Congress in behalf of the medical officers of the Navy, praying for an assimilated rank, believing that the action on the part of the National Legislature asked for is due not only to the medical department of the Navy, but to the character of the medical profession generally.

Resolved, That this resolution be published, and that copies be transmitted to the Representatives in Congress from this District, and to the Senators from this State.

From the regular minutes,

JNO. S. TROWBRIDGE, Sec'y.

University of Pennsylvania.—We are pleased to record the election of JOSEPH CANSON, M. D., to the chair of Materia

Medica and Pharmacy in this school. Dr. Carson has for fourteen years occupied the chair of Materia Medica and Pharmacy in the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, and in addition to the experience thus gained as a teacher, he possesses a thorough knowledge of all the branches connected with his professorship. He is an excellent botanist, a skilful pharmacist, and a good chemist.

Transylvania University.—Dr. BOLING has resigned the chair of Obstetrics in this institution, and will resume his practice in Montgomery, Ala.

Kentucky School of Medicine.—A new school of medicine has been established in the city of Louisville, under the auspices of the Masonic University of Kentucky, with the above title, the session of which will commence on the first Monday in November next.

Transylvania Medical Journal.—This Journal will be hereafter published in Louisville.

Obituary Record.—It is with feelings of the deepest regret that we have to record the death of ROBERT EGLESFELD GRIFFITH, M. D., which took place in this city on the 27th ult., in the 53d year of his age. Dr. Griffith possessed fine talents; in addition to a thorough knowledge of his profession, he was familiar with most of the branches of natural science, while in botany and conchology he stood second to few in this country; and his social and moral qualities were of the highest order.

Dr. Griffith filled in succession the chairs of Materia Medica and Pharmacy in the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy; of Materia Medica, Therapeutics, Hygiene, and Medical Jurisprudence in the University of Maryland, and that of Medicine in the University of Virginia. Whilst labouring in the latter station his health failed him, and he was induced to seek a winter's residence in the West Indies in hopes of its restoration. It became evident, however, that his health was permanently broken, and for the last four years he has resided in his native city. Though suffering much, his energy and industry never flagged; and he has given the results of his labours in his Medical Botany and his Universal Formulary, two works much wanted, and which will secure him a

permanent reputation. He has also enriched by his annotations a number of works republished in this country, among which we may mention Christison's Dispensatory, Taylor's Medical Jurisprudence, Ryan's Medical Jurisprudence, Chitty's Medical Jurisprudence, Ballard and Garrod's Materia Medica.

High as were Dr. Griffith's medical and scientific acquirements, they were eclipsed by the noble and generous qualities of his heart, which endeared him to a large circle of friends, to whom as well as to his family his loss is irreparable.

We hope to have some other opportunity of placing upon record more precise memoirs of a friend with whom we have been associated for five-and-thirty years in uninterrupted friendship, and whose life we can hold up as a model in every respect for the imitation of the aspiring student.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

On the Poisonous Gases of Vaults and Cemeteries.—A recent number of the *Annales d'Hygiène* contains some interesting information on this subject.

It had been long remarked by persons employed about the Parisian cemeteries, that a very pernicious gas was generated in the temporary vaults in which bodies were deposited, and M. Pellieux was requested by the inspector of cemeteries to investigate the nature of this gas, and discover, if possible, the means of counteracting its deleterious influence. One vault in Montmartre was particularly mentioned as insalubrious to the workmen, and was examined with care. It was eighteen feet deep, and contained eleven places for coffins on each side; those enclosing bodies being hermetically walled up. On descending into the vault, nothing but a cadaveric smell was perceived; yet a candle was immediately extinguished, though the vault had been left open for twenty-four hours previously. A bird let down to the bottom of the vault was killed in a few seconds. The inspector and M. Pellieux now made an attempt to enter the vault, but were unable to do so. One of the workmen, long accustomed to such employment, with great difficulty collected enough of the gas to fill a quart balloon.

The symptoms produced by exposure to the emanations are generally as follows: The respiration first becomes difficult and

oppressed; the head heavy and the face injected. A peculiar feeling of dryness is now experienced in the mouth, and deglutition becomes difficult. An acrid, warm taste, which the grave-diggers compare to that of bad brown sugar, is felt in the mouth: in a word, the symptoms of asphyxia are prominent.

The effects of the gas were found to be produced in many other vaults which were examined; and, what is curious, were particularly violent in a vault of the 30th series, although it was quite new, and had never received a corpse.

The gas collected from the vaults of the cemetery of Montmartre, Père-la-chaise, and Mont Parnasse, was examined chemically by M. Pellieux, and found to consist almost entirely of carbonic acid gas. In many of the vaults, however, a very notable quantity of carbonate and hydrosulphate of ammonia was discovered. M. Pellieux is inclined to think that other gases, likewise, will be found, and proposes to submit to a regular chemical analysis, not only the emanations from the vaults, but also the air of the various cemeteries. As to the cause of these emanations, the author considers that they may be attributed to three principal sources:—

1. The decomposition of animal matter gives rise, as is well known, to a considerable quantity of carbonic acid gas. The quantity of the latter contained in a vault will not be in proportion to the number of bodies contained, but rather to the rapidity of decomposition.

2. In the temporary and pauper graves the mass of dead bodies in permanent decomposition is a constant source of carbonic acid gas. Hence, under certain states of the atmosphere, this gas may perhaps flow down into the vaults, just as a fluid would do.

3. In addition to the above general causes, there is a special one which refers to some of the vaults examined. These had been excavated in ground which had served for pauper graves (*fosses communes*) many years ago. In ground of this kind, decomposition does not go on rapidly, and the author affirms that he has had occasion to see bodies buried in such ground as little decayed as if they had been buried for a few months only, though the date of sepulture went back to twenty years.

With respect to the means of counteracting the effects of the noxious gases contain-

ed in vaults, the author proposes adding a double chimney to each for the purposes of ventilation; but the board of health long ago recommended a more simple process, viz., pumping in atmospheric air with a common fire engine.

From the above analysis it will be seen, that M. Pellieux treats this important question exclusively as a chemist. Every one is acquainted with the deleterious influence of carbonic acid gas, but there is no doubt that other gases or volatile substances are produced during decomposition of animal substances, and play a very important part in the production of disease. This fact was pointed out many years ago by Mr. G. A. Walker, who had no opportunity, however, of detecting the precise chemical nature of the volatile substances alluded to.

M. Gaultier de Claubry also alludes to the probable agency of these emanations, in a note attached to the memoir of M. Pellieux. M. Gaultier notices, that the author has taken only one view of the subject, and engages him to give a wider range to his experiments. Although it may be difficult to discover the precise nature of the poisonous exhalation, much benefit must arise from a scientific examination. It is, at all events, certain, that the development of carbonic acid gas, which explains cases of asphyxia and sudden death in vaults, will not account for many other important phenomena connected with emanations from decaying animal matter. The peculiar acrid and sugary taste mentioned by the workmen, does not arise from carbonic acid gas; nor is it from this gas that the exhalations from stagnant waters become so injurious to health. The insalubrity of crowded wards in hospitals, jails, &c., is likewise well known, yet the proportion of carbonic acid gas is there increased by a very insignificant fraction only. This was pointed out long ago by a commission which the French government had named to ascertain the number of cubic feet of atmospheric air necessary for each individual in barracks and military hospitals. The commission showed that the air of apartments became insalubrious long before chemistry was able to detect any sensible change in the quantity of carbonic acid gas.

In the Report of the General Board of Health on Extramural Interment, we find some observations of Dr. Lewis on the gases of coffins. In all cases, Dr. Lewis found

that the gases extinguished flame, and were themselves incombustible. They consisted apparently of nitrogen and carbonic acid, "holding putrescent animal matter in suspension." Occasionally ammonia was present.—*Med. Times*, April 27, 1850.

Poisoning with Zinc.—The highly injurious effects produced by the white lead employed in the manufacture of paints, have given rise to many efforts to obtain a substitute for that metal. After many unsuccessful attempts, M. LECLAIRE at length found a means of employing the oxide of zinc instead of lead, and the reports of several medical practitioners seemed to prove, that the use of zinc in manufactories was unattended with any baneful effect on the health of the workmen employed. Subsequent experience, however, has modified this opinion; and it appears to be demonstrated that zinc, like lead, mercury, &c., has toxic properties peculiar to it. This fact was announced by MM. Landouzy and Maumené, at the last meeting of the Academy of Sciences.

It was formerly the custom to fasten down champagne corks with iron-wire; but latterly galvanized wire has been much used for that purpose. The masses of wire, from two to twenty pounds in weight, are cut into small pieces, twisted, and then beaten by the workmen. During this process the particles of zinc employed for galvanizing the wire become detached, and, being respired, produced a peculiar species of metallic poisoning, now described, I believe, for the first time.

The principal symptoms are, general malaise, rigors, headache, and excessive thirst, soon followed by severe inflammation of the throat, pain over the larynx and angle of the jaws, tumefaction of the submaxillary glands, swelling, and ulceration of the amygdalæ, salivation, fetid breath, and, finally, colicky pains, with diarrhœa. All the workmen employed were attacked by the above symptoms, which disappeared as soon as they ceased to work with galvanized wires, giving off a metallic dust. The relation of cause and effect was here, therefore, manifest, and we have to add one more to the long catalogue of human maladies. Fortunately, moderate precaution will suffice to prevent its development.—*Medical Times*, June 8th, 1850.

Causes of Cholera.—At a late meeting of the Institute was read a highly interesting memoir on the epidemic attack of cholera in the prison at Brest, occupied by the galley-slaves. Some facts, which seem clearly to connect the development of the disease with malarious causes, may be worthy of record. The prison contained 2662 inmates, distributed in four wards and in an infirmary. The four wards are furnished, each with 27 water-closets, in order that the prisoners of each row may be enabled to reach the closet without being unchained, for these unhappy culprits never quit their heavy chains for an instant. The water-closets communicate with a drain which opens into the harbour of Brest, and at low water the south-west winds, blowing up the unguarded drain, force back the mephitic vapours into the very wards. The infirmary and the condemned cell are free from this inconvenience. 189 cases of cholera occurred in the prison, and of these no less than 113 proved fatal. Now, of 2445 prisoners in the ward just alluded to, 165 were attacked by cholera; while of 217 individuals in the infirmary and condemned cell, only three persons were attacked. The very same result had occurred in 1832. At that period fifty-three prisoners were cut off by cholera in the wards furnished with water-closets connected with the open drain, while in the infirmary, which is free from this source of disease, only a single death took place. It is not often that we find so striking an example of the influence exercised by unwholesome exhalations in the development of cholera.—*Med. Times*, June 8, 1850.

New Practice in Cases of Distorted Pelvis.—M. DELFRAYSSE proposes to administer iodine to the mother during the last two months of pregnancy with the view of arresting the development of the fœtus in cases of distorted pelvis. The following is the formula he employs:—

R. Iodine, ℥j; ioduret of potassium, ℥ij; distilled water, ℥j. Six or eight drops to be taken every day in an ounce of any bland fluid.

The two following cases, illustrative of the effects of this practice, may be worthy of record:—

"A lady, whose pelvis was deformed, the antero-posterior diameter of the outlet measuring three inches only, had lost

several children during delivery. The last was prematurely delivered at the age of seven months, and died a few minutes afterwards. Under these circumstances, M. Delfrayse resolved on making a trial of the iodine. It was given every day during the last two months of gestation, and under its influence the lady was twice delivered at the full period without the slightest difficulty. The children were healthy and vigorous, though not larger or heavier than the child expelled at seven months. One weighed 22½ ounces less than the first children born of the same parent; the other weighed 23½ ounces less.

"The second case was also one of deformed pelvis, having previously given rise to several difficult labours, during which all the children were lost. The patient having become pregnant for the sixth time, was treated in the manner described above; the child was born at the full period, strong and healthy, though weighing three pounds and a half less than any of the former children. No artificial means were employed. The child is now well, and strongly constituted."—*Med. Times*, June 8.

Paralysis of the Bladder cured by injection of Solution of Strychnine.—A man, aged 68, after a drinking bout and exposure to cold, found himself unable to empty his bladder. After many painful ineffectual attempts to do so he requested the aid of M. Lecluyse, who passed in a catheter and drew off a large quantity of urine. Eight hours subsequently, however, the bladder was again filled, and the patient was totally unable to empty it. The catheter was again employed, but, after its withdrawal, the bladder again filled. For some days the urine was simply drawn off, under the belief that in a short time the muscular fibres of the bladder would recover their contractility. Various measures were afterwards employed, at first with the idea of overcoming some imaginary spasm of the neck; but, as the catheter could be introduced with perfect facility, this notion was soon given up, and turpentine, copaiba, stimulating diuretics, as uva ursi, juniper, &c., were given internally, and cold applications were applied externally. These measures being useless, cantharides was then tried, but produced such irritation that it was obliged to be abandoned. Ergot of rye was then given internally without benefit; and, finally,

strychnine was administered, and gradually augmented till upwards of a grain a day was given, and till it produced spasmodic contractions of the muscles of the trunk and extremities. These means were as ineffectual as those previously used; and after ten weeks of treatment the state of the bladder remained unaltered. Fifteen days were now allowed to pass by without treatment, at the end of which time M. Lecluyse conceived the idea of injecting strychnine at once into the bladder. Six grains of strychnine, with a little alcohol, were dissolved in a pint of water, and two ounces were injected four times every day, the bladder being previously emptied. For four or five days no effect was perceptible, but at the end of that time some urine appeared between the sound, which had been retained in the bladder and the urethra; on removing the sound, the patient found that he had completely regained voluntary command over the bladder. From that moment there was no further inconvenience.—*Annales de la Société d'Emulation de la Flandre Occidentale*, 1850.

Local Application of Chloroform.—M. BORDET reports a case in which two deep eschars were made by means of Vienna paste, without the least pain, the places having been previously drenched with chloroform for ten minutes. The application of the caustic did not cause the patient so much pain as to equal the slight burning sensation produced by the chloroform itself. It is suggested that abscesses may be opened, or bodies near the surface extracted without pain, by the same means.—*L'Union Méd.*, April 27.

M. AUBRUN reports a case in which violent neuralgic pains occurred ten days after an attack of shingles, in the parts which had been affected. Enormous doses of opium and of belladonna gave no relief, but a single application of chloroform to the part removed the pain in fifteen minutes. M. Aubrun has also employed chloroform locally to certain carcinomatous tumours with great temporary relief.—*L'Union Méd.*, May 14.

New Anastomosis between the Vena Portæ and the Inferior Cava.—M. CLAUDE BERNARD has discovered and described a new mode of anastomosis between the abdominal and general venous systems. This

disposition was discovered in the liver of the horse. The porta and inferior cava, in that animal, are separated by the lobulus Spigelii, and it is at this point that the anastomosis now alluded to takes place. Oftentimes before, but generally soon after, it has entered the liver, the trunk of the vena porta gives off numerous branches, which accompany the cava for some time, and then anastomose with it in a very peculiar manner. At first sight they might be mistaken for a system of *vasa vasorum*; but further research shows that, instead of breaking up into capillaries, they suddenly dip into the cava and communicate with it. In other points, the branches unite to form a kind of ampulla which communicates directly with the cava vein. The anastomosing branches have no valves, and the communication takes place, in a very free manner, throughout the whole liver.—*Med. Times*, June 22.

Passage of Hydrogen through Solid Bodies.—M. LOYET states that he has passed hydrogen gas through gold and silver leaf, through double folds of tin foil, and through the laminae of gutta percha, obtained from a solution of the latter in chloroform. The same author, however, adds that he has not been able to effect its transmission through the thinnest plate of glass.

Microscopic Examination of Human Urine. By MM. ROBIN and VERDEIL.—When fresh urine is evaporated, a thin pellicle forms on the surface of the liquid when the evaporation has proceeded to a certain extent. Examined with the microscope, this is found to be composed of an amorphous mass, with crystals of urate of soda and neutral phosphate of lime. If evaporation is carried still farther, and the liquid allowed to stand, there form crystals of chloride of sodium and of creatine, which can be distinguished by means of polarization. The existence of urea, of creatinin, and of some salts, may be easily proved by evaporating to a syrup, filtering and dividing into three parts. One part being evaporated to dryness, and treated with alcohol, gives evidence at once of urea, when to a drop of the alcoholic solution a proportionate quantity of nitric or oxalic acid is added. The addition of a few drops of chloride of zinc to another part, throws down, in two or three days, the double salt of chloride of zinc and creatinin. The third portion, be-

ing mixed with three times its weight of absolute alcohol, throws down, after twelve hours, crystals of neutral phosphate of soda; twenty-four hours afterwards, crystals of acid phosphate of soda form. The addition of a little ammonia will bring into view the phosphates of lime and magnesia.—*Ibid.*, from *Gaz. Méd.*, April 27.

Urethral Phthisis.—M. RICORD has described to the Académie de Médecine, in Paris, the case of a man, aged fifty-eight, from whom, some years ago, he removed a tuberculous testicle, and who lately died in the hospital. On examination, the mucous membrane of the urethra was studded over with miliary tubercle, the prostate had disappeared, and was replaced by a true tubercular cavern. This is the second example of urethral tubercle met with by M. Ricord.—*Ibid.*, April 25, 1850.

Harveian Society of Edinburgh.—This Society held its annual festival on the 10th of April. The dinner went off with the usual hilarity, and we especially remarked the enthusiasm with which Colonel Boldero's health was drunk, in compliment to his noble efforts in the House of Commons in support of the Assistant-Surgeons of the Navy. The subject of the prize essay for 1851 is an "Experimental Inquiry on the Action of Iron, comprising especially the question of its Accumulation in the Blood."—*Ibid.*

Obituary Record.—Died, at Norwich, June 9th, JOHN GREENE CROSS, M.D., F.R.C.S., senior surgeon to the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, and one of the Vice-Presidents of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association.

—, on the 10th of March, after a long and painful illness, Prof. CANSTATT, of the University of Erlangen. Dr. C. was one of the most distinguished physicians of our times, and had won for himself a lasting reputation by his work on the diseases of old age.

—, by drowning, in the wreck of the Orion—Liverpool and Glasgow steamer—on the 18th of June, JOHN BURNS, M.D., Professor of Surgery in the University of Glasgow.

—, on the 11th of June, at Aberdeen, N. B., PHILIP TYDIMAN, M.D., of Charleston, S. C., aged 73 years.